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different judgments on this point. He disapproves of a melancholy manner of spending the remaining part of the periodical day of rest, and after the season of public instruction in the morning. He recommends athletic exercises to the working classes. It may be allowed to remark, that violent exercises are not always best calculated for those who have laboured hard through the week: to them rest of body is the best relaxation, and might be made highly conducive to the improvement of mind, by a suitable course of reading, gradually rising so as to be adapted to their opening and unfolding capacities: while such, whose sedentary employment might render more exercise of body necessary, would find rational amusement in a social walk into the country, and in which their families might partake to the enlargement, and wider spread of the domestic affections. The unmformed classes of society are peculiarly liable to mispend their leisure, and there is much cause to fear that public assemblages for exercise would speedily produce drunkenness, dissipation and those evils, which are exemplified in the Sunday hurling matches of the south of Ireland. It would be of essential advantage to infuse more of mind into the amusements of every rank.

Our author finishes his present labour with the following remarks.

"I now conclude the first part of my plan for the government of nations. The temper, which this work will excite towards me, I anticipate; nor do I expect, that I shall be favourably heard. I make this observation, not for the purpose of bewailing my fate, or of moving the reader's compassion for a suffering martyr, I say so merely to evince, that I am not ignorant of the disposition of the times, and of the state of society. That I shall be slandered and misinterpreted, why should I doubt? when I prefer a state, in which the executive power should not be master, but minister; and when I think that a commonwealth may be framed without any miraculous assistance, more conducive to good government than any monarchy, by any management that ever existed, or that can exist, is capable of effecting; I have imagined things even still more offensive: I have proved, that it would be wise to divert the religious belief of mankind from fables to facts, and from frights to philosophy. In fine I have taken arms against a host of errors, and against the chief, Superstition,—that enormous monster whose head reaches to Heaven, while her feet rests on the abyss."

We fear he forms a just expectation of the verdict and decision of the the community at present. He will either be passed unnoticed with scorn and indifference, or be harshly condemned as the setter forth of strange doctrine. Like those who in every age, have advanced before their contemporaries, and have facilitated the way to improvement in succeeding generations, he must be contented with the approbation of his own mind, and with a dignified appeal to posterity, who frequently in the march of mind tacitly adopt those opinions decreed as errors by the preceding generation, and not unfrequently appropriate as their own discoveries, the hints of their forerunners in the work of reform. They who are willing to think, and are not completely frightened by the bugbear of prejudice will find much food in these volumes. They will find many materials plentifully arranged to serve as incentives to thinking. If they cannot acquiesce in all points they may be stimulated to that healthful exercise of mind, which promotes the vigour of the mental faculties Rust is generally attendant on disuse, and is very prevalent in this day, when so many indolently repose on authority without examination. K.

Poems, and Songs on different subjects; by Andrew M'Kenzie. Belfast printed by Alexander Mackay, 1810, 180 *pp.* 12*mo. price* 3*s* 4*d*

WE have not changed our opinion, that poetry being a delicacy, not a necessary of life, should be very good, or writers should be content to write in plain prose. Yet this rule requires a latitude of construction, and before judging by the strict canons of criticism it is proper to examine how far what

is offered to the public may not afford very allowable gratification to a numerous class of readers. They who cannot reach to the luxury of pine apples, or probably would not relish them, if they met with them for the first time, have a good right to please themselves with such articles of their native country as are within their reach, and to such a good apple is a pleasing enjoyment. All classes of readers should be gratified. On looking over the list of subscribers, it at first occurred that the book was needlessly swelled by inserting the long and respectable list; but this very list soon furnished some subjects for reflection, and afforded an ample plea for the publication of this little volume. Among the subscribers may be found many in the middle classes of life, farmers and others, and it was pleasing to observe that a taste for reading was spreading in this rank, and a hope was cherished that like our neighbours the Scotch peasantry, our people were attending to the cultivation of a literary taste suited to their circumstances. Such a mode of employing leisure would tend to the improvement of manners, and the amelioration of the heart. How preferable is the mode of employing time that can be spared from the more pressing avocations of life, both by writers and readers, in this manner, and in exertions to improve in intellectual acquirements, than in the noisy brawls of the ale-house, or in an exposure to the risques which attend the nightly dances on the homely barn floor, a frequent source, we fear, of corruption of manners. Actuated by these considerations it is truly pleasing to us to see this volume written in a simple and instructive manner, and so respectably encouraged by a numerous list of subscribers in that class, whose attention we are glad to see turned to the acquisition of knowledge.

The author inculcates good morals. There is nothing harsh in his simple strains. He sometimes rises to a considerable degree of *neatness*, particularly in "The broken heart," "Reflections on a brook," and "The ode to sleep," as well as in some other parts of the volume. "The storm" is a feeling warning against the inhuman conduct still too common in some places, of plundering wrecked ships. "Eliza an elegy;" pathetically relates the death of a young woman lost in the snow, on her return towards home.

We are less satisfied with "The Peasant's return." It is evidently an imitation of Gray's elegy, and imitations are seldom successful. "The sonnet to a primrose" is well expressed, and as the author alludes to the primrose as emblematical of himself, we shall select it as a specimen of his powers of song.

"Sweet, modest flow'ret, that, beneath the thorn
Unfold'st thy beauties in the lonely dell,
I meet thy fragrance in the breeze of morn,
In wilds where solitude and silence dwell.
Tho' garden flow'rs a richer tint display,
They oft demand the planter's nicest care;
While thou appear'st beneath some shelt'ring spray,
'Mid April's lingering frosts, and piercing air.
How like the rustic poet's lot is thine!
Whom nature taught the simple song to raise,
Doomed in oblivion's darkest shades to pine,
He chaunts, but seldom gains the meed of praise.
So, in some pathless desart thou art thrown,
To shed thy sweet perfume and fade unknown."

To sum up, the fastidious critic will not in these poems find much to carp at, while the good natured reader will in many places find much cause to be pleased.

We take our leave of the writer who is altogether personally unknown to us, with feelings of respect and esteem, and shall conclude with some remarks, which appear applicable to writers of this class, without knowing how far they may apply in his case. At any rate they may be useful as general hints. The pursuit of poetry ought only to occupy a subordinate station; and the serious business of life, and the scrupulous and conscientious regard to our relative duties being first in importance, should also have the first place in the allotment of our time. Poets should be careful to avoid that pedantry which arises from superficial knowledge, and mistaking the little height they have already gained for the summit of knowledge. Conviviality is often fatal to poets, by which they are led unawares sometimes into the grossness of debauch among their companions, and the danger is by no means lessened, if those with whom they get into association should be of a rank in life considered as superior to their

own. Poor Robert Burns, that child of genius, but of error, stands as an awful beacon to warn poets against danger. Probably there is little danger in this country, and in these times of being hurt by patronage, but the Caledonian Hunt proved ruinous to the morals and happiness of the Scotch bard. Poets should especially learn prudence, for without it, genius only bewilders and leads astray. They also should not be too easily satisfied with their own productions, and when much time cannot with propriety be devoted to literary studies, let them rather aim to do a little well, than seek to increase in bulk at the expense of correctness. K.

DISCOVERIES AND IMPROVEMENTS IN ARTS, MANUFACTURES, &c.

Patent of William Everard Baron von Doornick; for certain improvements in the manufacture of Soap, to wash with Sea water, and hard water.
Dated Feb 1809.

AFTER a preamble, enumerating the various substances which have hitherto been used for making soap (for the greater security of the patent) any of which the patentee declares may be used in his method; by uniting them to the gall of animals, and lime in various states of combination; the following particular directions are given for making this soap.

To make soap for the purpose of washing with sea water, and hard water, take about one hundred and twelve pounds of tallow, or a proportionate quantity of fat, oil, or other substance of which soap is made, and proceed by any of the usual processes, to convert it into soap, or nearly so. Then add about eighty pounds of fine carbonate of lime, or other calcareous substance in combination with about ten gallons of weak soap leys, or with water; but the solution of soap leys and the carbonate of lime are preferred. These are to be introduced into the soap, both being in a warm state, agitating the mass for several hours, and raising and keeping the same to the boiling point, which is generally sufficient to convert the whole mass into soap, or that state which is technically called finished. Then the fire is to be withdrawn, and after suffering the mass to cool, to the temperature of about one hundred and eighty degrees of Fahrenheit's scale, about seven pints of the gall of animals are to be added, which if in a coagulated state is to be diluted with a small quantity of water or weak soap leys continuing the agitation till a complete mixture takes place, when it is put into frames in the usual way, and when it is sufficiently cooled, it is cut up as is usually done by soap makers. By this means the soap produced will answer the purpose of washing in sea water, and in hard water, and is more economical, and scours, and washes better than soap made by any former process.

To make soap for washing in soft water, and all other purposes for which common soaps are used, the patentee proceeds in the manner described, except that to every hundred and twelve pounds of tallow, or proportionate quantity of any other substance (used for the same purpose) about twenty eight pounds of fine carbonate of lime, or other fit calcareous substance is added along with about nine gallons of weak soap leys, or water, and about two pints of animal gall.

To improve soft soap, and make it wash in hard water, and sea water, the patentee takes soft soaps, formed of any substance usual; or proceeds in the usual way to make soft soap; to every hundred weight of which he adds about fifty six pounds of fine carbonate of lime, or other fit calcareous substance, in a state of solution, with about twelve gallons of pearl ash or pot ash leys, or of any other soap leys of which soft soap is made, of a middling strength; the soap and